

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com 🐦 [@LlaisLlandyrnog](https://twitter.com/LlaisLlandyrnog)

October 2022 – Volume 8– Issue 1

Winners of the flower and produce show

Best garden: Richard and Iona Davies,
Hafod y Bryn

Fruit and vegetables:

Best exhibit – Mair Edwards

Most points – Richard Davies

Flowers: Best exhibit and most points –
Olwen Rowlands

Floral art:

Best exhibit – Wendy Grey-Lloyd

Most points – Rachel Major

Cookery:

Best exhibit – Mair Edwards

Most points – Rhiannon Griffith

Young people:

Best exhibit – Penny Kinsey

Most points – Ralph Kinsey

Craft:

Best exhibit – Livia Jones

Most points – Gwenda Marshall

Photography: Best exhibit – Julia Hughes

Adults' section: Most points – Richard Davies

President's favourite exhibit – Lyn Rose

Secretary's favourite exhibit – Livia Jones

Wordsearch: Edith Hughes and Beth Evans

Show president: Rod Williams, Rhiwbebyll
Isaf



*Mair Edwards,
winner of the
best exhibit in the
cookery section
and in the fruit
and vegetables
section.*



*Richard Davies
– winner of
most points in
the fruit and
vegetables
section, most
points overall
in the adults
section, and
the best
garden
competition.*



Around the village

St. Kentigern Hospice On Thursday, September 1st, a very successful coffee morning was held at Glanrafon through the kindness of Chris and Ruth Griffiths. £620 was raised towards St Kentigern Hospice. This is the last time that this annual coffee morning will be held at Glanrafon, and during the 10 years, the princely sum of £6329 has been raised towards St Kentigern Hospice. Chris and Ruth would like to thank everyone for their support over this period. We as a village wish to thank Chris and Ruth most sincerely for their generosity over the years. Next year, it is hoped to hold this annual coffee morning at Maes y Wern.



Congratulations to John and Molly, Tŷ Newydd, on the birth of their daughter, Molly Georgina. Also to Mari and Huw, Maes Tyrnog, on the birth of their daughter Myfi Olwen, sister to Jini and Penri.

Coffee mornings A very successful coffee morning was held at the Village Hall in August, when £420 was raised towards St Tyrnog and St Cwyfan Churches. A special thanks to all. Thanks also to all who supported the coffee morning in September towards Macmillan Cancer Support – £400 was raised.

Best wishes to Elaine Wright, Paul Chapman and Edith Hughes for a speedy recovery following hospital treatment. We send our best wishes also to Mark Roberts of Denbigh who is also in hospital.

Best wishes to Gwilym, Glennydd on his 80th birthday and to Ian, Sgubor Wen on his 50th.

Cricket Alys Evans is a member of Denbigh Cricket Club and has had the honour of being selected for the Under 13's North Wales Girls Cricket Team and the Wales Girls U 12 development squad. She's had amazing experiences and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities.



Open Doors: As part of Denbigh Open Doors weekend, on Sunday 25th September, at Denbigh Library, Wendy Grey-Lloyd gave an interesting lecture about Robert Dudley, the Earl of Denbigh, who gave the land and the money to build the County Hall (now Library). He was also close to Queen Elizabeth I.

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Services in September

St Tyrnog's: all services at 11.15

- 2nd Eucharist
- 9th Morning Prayer
- 16th Morning Prayer
- 23rd Eucharist
- 30th Mission Area Service at St Mary's, Denbigh at 11 a.m.

9th Messy Church at the Village Hall, 3-5pm

Dyffryn Chapel

- 2nd 11.00 Gwenda Humphreys
- 9th 9.45 Rev. Andras Iago/Thanksgiving
- 23rd **17.30** Rev. Huw Dylan Jones
- 30th 11.00 Rev. Andras Iago

What's on at the Cocoa Rooms

- Mon 3rd Trefoil Guild
- Tues 4th Book Club 10am–12pm
- Tues 18th Book Club 10am–12pm
- Weds 19th Tuesday Club 2pm
- Tues 25th Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee meeting 7pm

To book the Cocoa Rooms, contact Mrs Emily Williams on emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk.

What's on at the Village Hall

- Sat 1st Craft group 9.30am–3pm
- Mon 3rd Brownies, 5.30–7pm
- Tues 4th W.I. 7–9pm
- Sat 8th Coffee morning: Brownies
- Mon 10th Brownies, 5.30–7pm
- Weds 12th Mothers' Union, 2–4pm
- Sat 15th Table-top sale: proceeds to Prostate Cancer UK, 1–4pm
- Mon 17th Brownies, 5.30–7pm
- Weds 19th History Society, AMG 7pm, speaker at 7.30: Ven. Bernard Thomas, 'Reflections on 50 years of ordained ministry'
- Fri 21st Llandyrnog Eisteddfod 5pm
- Mon 24th Brownies, 5.30–7pm
- Sat 29th Coffee morning: St Tyrnog's and St Cwyfan's

To book the Village Hall, contact Mrs Wyn Wilson on 01824 790447

The return of the Eisteddfod: 21 October

Hi kids and young people! Who would like to sing, recite, draw, write poetry, design computer graphics, and perhaps earn some pocket money?

After a long, troublesome three years, our annual Eisteddfod is back. This is one of the main cultural events in Llandyrnog and shows Welsh culture at its best. Children from Bryn Clwyd, Gellifor and other primary and secondary schools in the area will compete on stage for coveted prizes in the singing, cerdd dant, reciting, and instrumental competitions. If you prefer to try your hand in the home competitions, there's plenty of choice – poetry, literature, art and computer graphics.

The first ever Llandyrnog Eisteddfod was held on March 1958, with both an afternoon and evening session. Entry fee in the afternoon was only 2 shillings, and the stage competitions were very similar to recent Eisteddfods. But there was more variation in the home-based competitions, e.g. over 16 – Woodwork – 'to construct a ladder not more than 5ft in height!' Over 16 – Sewing 'to sew together an underslip!' Since then, the Eisteddfod has gone from strength to strength with the support of hard-working volunteers, generous sponsors, and the unstinting support of our schools.

Don't worry too much if you haven't managed to get a programme and are set on taking part on stage this year. After such a long, forced break, the Eisteddfod Committee has given everyone a free rein to choose their own particular song or recitation. Hopefully, this will encourage more children than ever to compete and develop self-confidence. In the homework competitions, we hope to see similar number of entries to the record 2019 Eisteddfod – 500 in all!

So, remember the date – October 21st at 5pm at the Village Hall. For any other information, contact Iona Davies – ionapari@hotmail.co.uk, (01824 790484) or Lona Meleri – lonamel@yahoo.co.uk (07734 408608).

Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda

When Anwen mentioned Penrhyn Quarry as a venue my stomach churned – oh dear, she's never gone and bought me zip wire experience! Obviously being polite I would not refuse – but in a passing conversation not long ago, I jokingly said no way was I going to whizz like a bird at 100mph attached to a thick cheese wire over a massive hole filled with freezing cold water, with nothing more than a strong paperclip between me and meeting my maker – no chance!! Anwen said it's been open since 2013 and no one has ever dropped off. Well, there's always a first, and I did not want to be in the Guinness Book of Records for the wrong reasons!

But Anwen, fair play, had chosen an experience much safer and more to our liking – a guided tour around the quarry in a converted open-sided ex-army lorry. They have loads of them there, mostly to ferry the zip wire people so that they can be taken to the top, laid on a table, trussed up like chickens and given a shove. Believe you me they looked scared – well good luck to them.

Yes, today this is largely a place of entertainment and stunning scenery, but let's not forget the grim past. Rather, let us reflect on the hardship endured by the 3000-strong workforce when the quarry was in its heyday during the Pennant family reign. This was from 1770 until 1963 when it was sold to McAlpine – even then 1500 people were employed there. Now there are only seventy. Our guide Steve was actually employed by McAlpine as a very young man – so this was fact, not fiction.

It was nothing but legalised slavery. The Pennant family had sugar plantations in Jamaica and applied the same principles. They gave up their interests in Jamaica in the 1930s but Lloyd George, addressing a meeting of 2000 Liberals in 1903 during the bitter three year strike, (which we will come onto later), said that 'the quarry was dug from common land which had fallen into *the hands of a rich slave owner in the 19th century and largely run*



on slave driving principles ever since'.

The truck stopped outside the apprentice sheds where it was explained that boys at the age of eight would be sent to the quarry to work to earn money to help the family. They spent three months in the apprentice shed then went out to the rock face. They would have to hand over their hard-earned wages to their mother to supplement the family income – just to make sure there was food on the table.

The life of the working man who may well have left a wife and children meant nothing to the Pennants – he would be replaced immediately and his wife and children would be told to leave their tenanted property, probably destined for the workhouse. Remember, the quarrymen were at the mercy of the quarry owners from all directions – they had to pay for their tools, pay for them to be sharpened and pay for fuses and explosives. Deaths while detonating were not uncommon – the quarrymen could not afford long fuses and chanced their luck with short lengths and often paid the ultimate price.

Bethesda at that time would have had a population of 8000 people but according to records, only two policemen. There were 47 ale houses in the town, all on one side of the high street. We must remember though that it was very weak ale and safer to drink than the water.

One side of the High Street was owned by

Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda: ctd

the Penrhyn Estate and the other by the Cefnfaes Estate – one encouraging ale houses and the other one vehemently opposing them. If you drive down Bethesda High Street it's obvious because by now there's probably only half a dozen left but they're all on the same side.

Anyway, back to the quarry. We approached the summit looking at the breath-taking views and upon scanning the horizon, Anwen spotted in the distance a row of cottages quite remote from the quarry and even more remote from Bethesda. According to Steve, our tour guide, these were '*tai bradwyr*' translated '*scab houses*' and each had its own plot of land.

Towards the end of the three-year great strike, 1900–1903, some workers were forced, because of hunger, poverty or maybe loyalty, back to work, and broke the picket line. However their life and the life of their families would have been unbearable in Bethesda – life-threatening would be the term used today – so the Pennants rewarded them with a terraced house and an acre of land to supplement their income. When the strike ended, they were all promoted to be stewards, given the best seams of slates, and could choose families to work for them. They were powerful but very unpopular people.

I had heard that there was still animosity between certain families in Bethesda to this day and when I enquired – according to Steve and by the look on his face – oooh yes! On a certain day in November, to commemorate the end of the great strike in 1903, families still put posters in the windows '*dim bradwyr yn y tŷ yma*' ('*no scabs in this house*') – a hundred and twenty years later and there is still no forgiving.

We had now reached the top of the quarry with a view over to the present working area. Penrhyn slate is still being dug out and is recognised as the best slate in the world. Yes, there are Chinese, Canadian and Spanish slates available, each with their distinctive colours and qualities. Spanish slates are fine in Spain –



'*the rain in Spain...*' as they say, but they would not survive very long in Wales. They're only 200 million years old as opposed to Bethesda slates which are 600 million years old.

Incidentally most, if not all, Penrhyn slates are exported and used in prestigious projects around the world. The market is now managed by slate merchants and they dictate the price. Some Canadian slates from a mine in Quebec came on the market circa 2005 and they were tested and found to be from the same vein as Penrhyn – before the Atlantic was formed. So McAlpine, who owned the quarry from 1963 until 2007, actually bought the quarry themselves to ensure that there was no undercutting the price. The quarry is now owned by Breedon, a very well-respected mining company. It also owns Cwt y Bugail, Oakley and Pen yr Orsedd slate quarries.

Anyway, the trip back down to the starting point was a time to reflect really – a bittersweet experience. I could not get the image out of my mind of those fathers with their arms over their boys' shoulders walking home, probably after a twelve-hour shift, cold, wet, tired and hungry, to a meagre diet. And if they had a bad 'deal' from the steward, they probably had not made much money either. In the distance they could see Penrhyn Castle, home to the mine owners, the Pennants who had built a massive brick wall around the estate 'to keep the pheasants in and the peasants out'.

Bryn Davies

At the Commonwealth Games

My name is Beca Mosford Evans and I am a member of Côr Dyffryn Clwyd Choir with Ceri Roberts as conductor. We had the privilege of performing on the first day of the Commonwealth games in Birmingham, as we had won the S.A.T.B. Choir competition at the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Denbigh this year.

The choir travelled by bus to the games. The atmosphere was stirring and a sense of pride in representing our country. We performed at the Wales Team House as part of the athletes' preparations before the official competitions began. We sang the song *Un Ydym Ni* (*We are One*) that we won at the Eisteddfod, and the Welsh National Anthem when all the athletes joined us in the singing. After performing at Wales Team House, we travelled to sing at the clock tower in the middle of Birmingham. People were surprised that a choir from Wales had come to sing there.

It was a wonderful feeling knowing that we had represented Wales at the Commonwealth games, and knowing that we were the only choir that had been chosen to do so. It was a great privilege performing in front of all the talented athletes, and listening Anwen Butten, the Team Wales Captain's speech before the start of the big event.





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Recipe

Ingredients

225g/8oz margarine, softened
175g/6oz light muscovado sugar
200g/7oz black treacle
300g/10oz self-raising flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground mixed spice
1 tsp ground allspice
4 free-range eggs
4 tbsp milk
3 pieces stem ginger from a jar, finely chopped

For the icing

75g/2½oz icing sugar, sieved
3 tbsp stem ginger syrup from the jar

Method

1. Cut a rectangle of non-stick baking parchment to fit the base and sides of a 30 × 23 × 4cm/12 × 9 × 1½ in. traybake tin or roasting tin. (Alternatively if using a 15 × 10in roasting tin, simply increase the ingredient measurements by 50%).
2. Grease the tin and then line with the paper, pushing it neatly into the corners of the tin.
3. Preheat the oven to 160 °C/325 °F/Gas 3.
4. Measure all the ingredients for the traybake into a large bowl and beat well for about two minutes until well blended. A hand-held electric mixer is best for this but of course you can also mix it by hand with a wooden spoon. (Treacle can be difficult to weigh accurately as it tends to stick to the scale pan. Weighing the treacle on top of the sugar overcomes this problem.)
5. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin, scraping the sides of the bowl with a plastic spatula to remove all the mixture. Level the top gently with the back of the spatula.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for about 35–40 minutes, or until the traybake springs back when pressed lightly with a finger in the centre and is beginning to shrink away from the sides of the tin. Allow the traybake to cool



a little, then remove the cake from the tin by easing the paper away from the sides of the tin. Turn onto a cooling rack, remove the lining paper and leave to cool completely.

7. Slice the cake into individual square portions.

8. To make the icing, mix the icing sugar and syrup together in a small bowl until smooth. The consistency should be thick enough to pipe without spreading too much.

9. Decorate each portion with a spider's web. To do this pour the icing into either a piping bag or good quality sandwich bag and cut a small hole in the corner. Pipe four straight lines across the cake in the shape of a star and then connect together with curved lines spaced at even intervals.

Allow the icing to set before slicing the traybake to serve. Enjoy!



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The Wright life

October is the time to see the countryside colours changing into a golden hue and to review what has been a success or a failure. What you will grow again and what you definitely won't. Harvest time is also here, a time of plenty and thanksgiving to the bountiful and varied 'fruits of our labours'. It's a very busy time – composting crop remains, saving seeds, freezing and preserving. It's also a time to start to plan for next year assisted by the thud of the seed catalogues coming through the letterbox.

Saving seeds is a far cheaper option to the seed catalogues as it provides free plants. Perhaps the easiest to start with are runner beans. Leave a few pods on the plant to dry in the wind and then collect before the winter frosts. If rain is forecast put the pods on a tray and leave to dry in an airy place. Store in an air-tight container or paper bag for planting next year. Don't forget to label what you save. You can try all sorts, I'm saving hollyhocks. A friend gave me some 'out of date' seeds and the plants have flowered beautifully this year with stems covered in pale pink flowers.

October also marks the official start of the British apple season and since the 1990's, 21st October has been celebrated as National Apple Day. Being a 'Kentish lass', apples are part of my family history. We moved north when I was very young, but my parents spoke fondly of the Kent apples and hop-growing around Sevenoaks where we lived. During the war they used to help with the harvest, using horse drawn carts laden with the precious cargo.

At the far end of the garden on the hedge, grows a wild hop plant. Well, I assume it's wild; it may have been planted there by a previous occupant of the farm to be used medicinally or for beer (I favour the latter). It's a twining hedgerow climber, very vigorously

wrapping its tendrils in a clockwise direction around anything and everything in its path – including the hedge trimmer. as it's such a tough plant.



Hops are a relatively new species to the UK, introduced in the 14th century from Europe where the Dutch used it to flavour their beer. Throughout history the hop has been used to treat stomach and bowel complaints and teething in babies (although not today) and sleeping disorders. Some people even use hop and lavender pillows to aid a natural night's sleep.

What a year of ups and downs, the long hot summer has been a challenge for all of us. Our gardens and countryside have suffered quite badly. We won't see the full extent of the effects of the dry summer for many months and some of our trees, shrubs and plants may still succumb over the winter. My beetroot certainly didn't like the hot weather and shrivelled up and burnt off. The runner beans have matured very late, not producing beans till the rain came in September. On the flip side the tomatoes have provided a bumper crop

The Wright life: ctd

and are now frozen as puree in pots for winter use. The sweetcorn has also produced plenty of juicy cobs, just need to eat them before the birds find them.

What to look out for this month – blackberries and sloes in our hedgerows. Sloes are the fruit of the blackthorn and are small plums with an attractive bluish purple sheen. They have fruited abundantly in my paddock hedge. They are too tart to eat straight from the hedge but are excellent sweetened and used to flavour gin – so I’m told.

Hazel

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A chance in a million

Co-incidences happen quite often in life, but this story might take some beating!

Rhys Ellis, Gader Goch, had arranged to go on a sight-seeing and walking holiday in Italy with his friends mid-September. They intended to visit locations that were connected with World War II, and arrived at the town of *Cassino*, southern Italy. During World War II, after the Allies had landed in southern Italy at the beginning of 1944, they met the Germans who had been entrenched around the mountains behind Cassino. There were heavy losses on both sides during the fierce battles of *Monte Cassino*. After a few days, Rhys and his friends arrived in Anzio, where the Allies had landed in 1944 (before eventually moving on to *Cassino*), and where there were also fierce battles fought on the beach against the Germans.

On September the 16th, they decided to do the coastal walk to the next town along the coast – *Nettuno*, which also experienced fierce fighting during the same period.

Unbeknown to Rhys, Nettuno is the town where Elen, Y Berth has lived with her family for over ten years. Feeling peckish after their walk, Rhys and his friends entered a ‘*ristorante*’, one of more than two dozen in town, and enjoyed their meal. Who do you think happened to be rushing towards that particular ‘*ristorante*’ to meet her friends for a meal? Yes, you guessed – Elen! They still look shocked and very happy in the photo! Both had a lovely chat and catch-up time!



Derry Morris testimonial match



On Sunday 28 August a testimonial football match was played between *Llandyrnog United 90's Legends* and *Denbigh Town 90's Legends* at Cae Nant in honour of a man who had represented both clubs with great distinction – the evergreen **Derry Morris**. Some of *Dyrny's* finest stars of the 1990's met numerous ex-Denbigh greats from the same decade at Cae Nant.

At the age of 55 most footballers have long said goodbye to their competitive careers, but Derry was still going strong in Tier 4 at the end of last season with Llandyrnog. His service to not only Llandyrnog Utd, but to local football in general deserved an immense amount of credit and he got that on the day – he took the field to a guard of honour! Although playing as a defender in his latter years, Derry originally made his name as a centre forward. His tremendous heading ability, made him a real danger at set pieces, smashing in goals from any angle, while his strength and skills on the ball probably placed him in the Mark Hughes mould!

A player with an excellent temperament, his overall goals tally is unknown, but one of the most important came in the 1991–92 President's Cup Final.

Playing at Central Park, Denbigh Town, Derry was representing Llandyrnog against arch rivals of the time, St Asaph. In the final minute,

the striker received the ball wide left, near the dressing rooms and curled an absolute beauty into the net to win the cup. Derry struck it so well, he turned to celebrate with the crowd before the ball even hit the target. That goal typified the fact that Derry had a variety of finishes in his arsenal – not just from inside the box. A special thanks to: Jimmy McNally for organising the event; to managers Russell Pearce, Bill Dawson, Pim McNally; referee Peter Barrow; all the players and all those who donated towards the charity, and especially Daniel Morris (Elis Morris) Butchers and Tom Moore, Henllan Bakery for donating their produce.

The match paid tribute to a very special player, and Derry's chosen charity to benefit from the day was Prostate Cancer UK, which raised over £2000.

Coffee Morning
Saturday 8th October
10.00 till 11.30

Brownies

In aid of Unit funds.

There will be tea, coffee and a raffle plus a table top sale of various donated items along with a selection of renovated jewellery.

Please come along and help support your local Brownie Unit.

Llanthony Priory

Llanthony Priory is a 900-year-old ruin locked away in the valley of Ewyas on border of Black Mountains which rise evocatively around it. It is noted as one of Wales's great medieval buildings. A place of spiritual contemplation and isolation.

The long road from Hay-on-Wye towards Abergavenny takes you there, passing Capel-y-Ffin on the way. The ruins of the Priory envelope you as you rest on the remains of the pillars rising out of the green grass. Walkers down from Offa' Dyke tread quietly around the ruins.



The old Abbot's Lodging is now a five-bedroom hotel, and the actual bar and dining room are within a vaulted crypt. The staff are smiling and helpful. There is no wi-fi, no phones, no TV, no signal – it is peace, perfect peace! We recently spent two nights there. Wonderful hospitality and food. Steep and windy stairs to climb.

It was a real get-away from the hustle and bustle of life – it conjures up in my mind the words from David Evans' popular hymn, '*Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place*'! It draws you back, and, hopefully, we will visit again one day!

Ruth Griffith



In September's Messy Church we welcomed everyone back after a break. As a church we have been awarded an Eco Church Award – a bronze award in Llandyrnog and a silver award in Llangwyfan. So, in Messy Church we learned about taking care of God's creation and we made lots of crafts about bugs and butterflies. We also made bird feeders and a wonderful bug hotel and reminded ourselves that we are all responsible for looking after all God's creatures and we must be kind to animals, plants and other people too.

We meet next on 9th October and all are welcome to join us.

Mary Steel



James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

The start of another school year and the children were quickly at work on their new exciting projects. Both juniors and infants have been enjoying the new outdoor areas that have been built over the summer. This means that whatever the weather, teachers can plan outdoor learning activities for their classes. The infant area now has a grass section in their outdoor classroom and the juniors have an area for independent learning. The school is also very grateful for a set of outdoor weatherproof curtains for the memorial stage.

The juniors

The juniors have a new 'Read for pleasure' space in their classroom. They are eager to start their book club discussions of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* and *The Haunting of Aveline Jones* by Phil Hickes. There are even herbal teas and cold drinks available!

In maths they have been learning about different types of triangles and checking if angles are bigger or smaller than a right angle.

They have also taken part in a live broadcast from Denbighshire Music Cooperative.



The Infants

The new topic is 'Dinosaurs'. The children are now fascinated by fossils and have been fossil hunting.

(more photos in Welsh version)



Matters discussed in the September 2022 meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

There were nine of the eleven members present and the matters discussed included:

- ♦ Maes Llan car park – a lighting column and head have been installed but not connected to date.
- ♦ The matter of inconsiderate parking outside Oliver's Row has been passed onto the PCSO.
- ♦ It was decided to allocate a sum of money in next year's budget as a contribution towards a community needs survey that would be enabled by Cadwyn Clwyd.
- ♦ It was noted that the notice board outside the Church was not the responsibility of the Community Council. It had been gifted by DCC Countryside Services in the past.
- ♦ Notice board for Llangwyfan – this is work in progress and funding is being sought from local businesses.
- ♦ The community shop project – it was reported that grant applications have been submitted with the outcome imminent and more directors are being sought to keep the momentum.
- ♦ Cllrs Griffith and Butler attended the Proclamation Ceremony of the King at Ruthin on the 11th September.
- ♦ Pont Glan y Wern – a meeting has been held between Highways Officers and local members. A comprehensive report has been prepared. However due to the lack of reported incidents, any road safety or other works was not deemed to be a priority.
- ♦ There were serious concerns about dog fouling on Cae Nant playing fields. Everyone to be vigilant and should anyone witness an incident, report it to your local councillor.
- ♦ Similarly there were concerns about the antisocial habit of hanging dog faeces bags on fencing and gates around the Llangwyfan area – people asked to be vigilant and report incidents to your local community councillor.
- ♦ There were concerns about the state of

some vacant properties in the area – Church Square in particular. Because of the uncertainty of ownership, it was decided to ask Denbighshire County Council's Empty Homes Officer to investigate further.

- ♦ Wi-fi – it was reported that the Cocoa Rooms now have fast broadband, courtesy of Welsh government funding via DCC. This will be available to all once access arrangements have been agreed.
- ♦ Councillors agreed to take part in a 'get to know your councillor' exercise to be included in future editions of *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*.
- ♦ A request has been made to improve the access to Cae Nant. Maybe this is a question that could be included in any future community needs survey.

Planning

Three applications were discussed:

- ♦ Tan Dderwen – application 18/2022/0787: erection of extension and alteration of dwelling and replacement garage
- ♦ Cae'r Fedwen – 18/2021/1031: change of use of land to site five luxury glamping lodges
- ♦ Glan y Wern Farm – 18/2022/0612: retention of manège and agricultural storage building.

The above are an overview of what was discussed and not approved minutes – full minutes of all meetings can be viewed on the community council website, www.llandyrnogcommunitycouncil.co.uk.

Superfast broadband is now installed in the Cocoa Rooms and is available for anyone who would like to use it for work or research purposes etc. If anyone is interested in using this excellent facility, contact Bryn on rbrynd1@gmail.com. There are no specific arrangements in place yet. This is the first step at promoting the facility to see if there's any interest.

Memories of the Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Show

My earliest memories of the show are of the end of the War (World War II I hasten to add!). At the time, if I remember correctly, the show, as well as being a Flower Show, was also an Agricultural Show, with local farmers competing in different competitions, e.g. mangolds, swedes or the best sheaf of corn. In those days, farmers did not specialize as much as today. For example, I remember as a child at Fron Gelyn Farm, we had milking cows (Shorthorn), bullocks, sheep, a few pigs, laying hens and chicks for Christmas. The Christmas period was a particularly busy time as my parents sold chickens for Christmas dinner! My aunt and neighbours would help to prepare the poultry for Christmas, and at the end of the day would be covered in fine feathers. At the time, a chicken was a rather rare and an expensive item, especially towards Christmas.

We had no electricity, no phone, no tractor then. We were very dependent on our draught horses – the **horsepower** of that time! It was very important for all farmers to grow plenty of oats in the fields to keep their draught horses well-fed and healthy. I remember the Show being held on Pen Palmant field, by the old Creamery. There was a huge tent for the flower and vegetable displays. The farm stock competitions were shown outside – all the animals would be in pens or tied to stakes.

I remember that my father was always willing to support the Show and bring his animals down for the various competitions. Many a time I helped him walk a heifer the two miles from Fron Gelyn to the Show – there was far less traffic in those days! I don't remember the results, but it was worth every step to support the Show!

It was very common to see stock being walked along the quiet, rural roads in those days. Since Fron Gelyn was quite an outlying farm on the Clwydian hills, my father used to rent a meadow by the river Clwyd, (by Glanywern), in summer, and it was quite a commotion to move the cattle in the Spring

and Autumn. Thank goodness for helpful neighbours who would help us steer the stock on those narrow roads and through the village of Llandyrnog. Usually, we would leave it till the evening so that we would have more willing helpers, such as the late Hywel Evans and his brother Gwilym who lived in Fron Yw at the time.

The villagers would also come out of their houses and give us a hand, or, perhaps, to make sure that the animals were not straying from the roads!

Rod Williams



By the 1960s, the agricultural aspect of the Show had gone. The show was then a flower and garden produce show with a carnival.

Denbighshire County Council

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Or leave a message on **Facebook**

The end of an era

On Thursday, September 8, Buckingham Palace announced the sad news that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving monarch in British history, had died aged 96. Two days earlier, she undertook her final public constitutional duty, appointing the 15th prime minister during her reign. She was Queen of the United Kingdom, 14 commonwealth countries and head of the Church of England.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born on 21 April, 1926 at her grandfather's home in London, and succeeded her father George VI in 1952, at the tender age of 25. She reigned for over 70 years – the longest reign in the history of the monarchy. She served her country with dignity throughout the long years and earned the respect of millions of people worldwide.

During her visits to Wales, she was inaugurated to the *National Eisteddfod Gorsedd* in 1947, and in 1971, she opened the new University Hospital in Cardiff. It was the Queen that opened the Welsh Assembly officially in 1999, and she was present in every Senedd opening till her last visit in 2021.

The Queen will be remembered for her strong Christian faith, her perseverance, and her lifelong public commitment.

We offer our sincerest condolences to the Royal Family.

The Tuesday Club



The guest speaker in the September meeting was Jackie Knight, resident of Llandyrnog, who makes jewellery from pewter and brought along a display of her items.

Jackie's interest in pewter jewellery stems from her father, Bernard Butler's work as a pewterer. He learned his craft in Hockley, the jewellery quarter of Birmingham.

In 1988 Bernard and his family moved to Ruthun and he obtained a studio at the town's Craft Centre. Jackie followed him to North Wales from her home in Kent, ten years later. Jackie came to help her father in his workshop, that was at his home by then, learning gradually to make her own jewellery.

Jackie goes to fairs and markets to sell her work, and occasionally visits Afonwen Craft Centre. She will be there 4-7 October, adding to her collection and taking time to talk to visitors. Jackie also mends jewellery.

She also told the history of pewter, which has been used since the time of the Romans. Some items that her father had made were also shown and the tools that she uses.

Jackie was thanked for a very interesting talk and light refreshments were served. Gwilym was wished a happy forthcoming birthday.

The next meeting will be on 19 October – new members welcome.

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A word from the Chairman

A few weeks have now passed since we held our annual show, and what a good show it was once again this year. After a two-year gap it was an extra special privilege to come together as a team to arrange this special day once again.

When we started the planning process Covid was raising its ugly head and uncertainty was in the back of our minds, but we decided to go ahead. We also decided that more space would be a safer option and decided to hire a marquee. This would allow us to stage all the fruit, vegetables and flowers separately to the craft and cookery etc.

It proved to be a great benefit because not only did we have more space we were also able to have chairs in the hall which proved very popular.



Hiring the marquee was at a cost but due to the generosity of the good people of Llandyrnog we made a slight surplus financially after paying for the marquee.

Many people remarked on the quality of the exhibits this year and on behalf of us all I would like to thank everyone that took the trouble to enter their items to ensure we had a good show, it's a credit to you all.

But we were disappointed in the number of young people exhibiting. They are so important to the future of the show and indeed to the village in general. So next year please encourage our young people to read the schedule and enter some of the classes, they will enjoy the experience, I'm sure.

We are planning on having some exciting new classes for young people next year so watch this space!

We decided not to have sponsors for the individual classes this year, but a few people have said that they would like the tradition to continue, we shall be discussing it at our first meeting.

Finally I would like to thank everyone that took part in the running of the show this year, it was wonderful to see you all working as a team to ensure the success of this special event in Llandyrnog's calendar.

Diolch o galon

John Rowlands (*Chairman*)

The best garden competition

The winners of the competition again this year were Richard ac Iona Davies, Hafod y Bryn. The prize was a £30 garden centre voucher.



The garden of Rachel Major, Llawog came a close second. Congratulations to all three on their beautiful gardens.

